

REMARKS

Claims 1-14, 16-22, and 24-26 were pending and rejected. Claim 19 has been amended, without prejudice to pursue the original claim in a related application. Claims 27-31 are new. Thus, after entry of this amendment, claims 1-14, 16-22, and 24-31 are currently pending. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections

In the Action, claims 1-4, 6-8, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated over Hong (US 2004-0066481).

The remaining claims 5, 9-14, 16-22, and 24-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Hong in combination with one or more of Nishida (US 2002-0159016), Kubota (JP 10-098190), and Kubo (US 6,091,467).

In response, Applicant asserts that these references, alone or in any combination, fail to disclose or even suggest each and every limitation of the present claims.

For example, present independent claim 1 recites the following limitations (*emphasis added*):

a gate electrode;
a gate insulating layer formed on the gate electrode;
a semiconductor layer formed on the gate insulating layer and disposed opposite the gate electrode;
a source electrode and a drain electrode that are formed at least in part on the semiconductor layer and face each other;
a passivation layer formed on the source electrode, the drain electrode, and a portion of the semiconductor layer that is not covered with the source electrode and the drain electrode; and
a shielding electrode formed on the passivation layer and disposed on a region between the source electrode and the drain electrode,
wherein the shielding electrode provides voltage shielding for the region on which it is disposed, and
wherein the shielding electrode comprises a transparent electrode.

In par. 51 and Fig. 4E, Hong explicitly discloses that second common electrode 224 is patterned to form an "H" shape overlapping first common electrodes 206 and pixel

electrodes 207. As shown in Fig. 4E, second common electrode 224 is not positioned to overlap gate electrode 201a, and the second common electrode 224 is not positioned between source electrode 202a and drain electrode 202b. Accordingly, Hong fails to explicitly disclose or even suggest that second common electrode 224 is disposed on a region between source electrode 202a and drain electrode 202b, in a manner as recited in present independent claim 1.

Moreover, in par. 51, Hong explicitly discloses that second common electrode 224 shields pixel electrodes 207 from the affects of data voltage. Accordingly, Hong fails to disclose or even suggest that second common electrode 224 provides voltage shielding for the region between source electrode 202a and drain electrode 202b, as recited in present independent claim 1.

In sharp contrast to Hong, present independent claim 1 recites, “a shielding electrode formed on the passivation layer and disposed on a region between the source electrode and the drain electrode,” and, “wherein the shielding electrode provides voltage shielding for the region on which it is disposed.” Support for these limitations may be found throughout Applicants’ specification, e.g., Fig. 5 and pars. 103, 106, and 118-119.

In another example, present claim 2 recites the following limitations:

wherein the shielding electrode is electrically isolated.

In par. 17, Hong explicitly discloses that second common electrode 224 is connected to first common electrode 206. Accordingly, Hong explicitly discloses that second common electrode 224 is not electrically isolated, as recited in present claim 2.

In sharp contrast to Hong, present claim 2 recites, “wherein the shielding electrode is electrically isolated.” Support for these limitations may be found throughout Applicants’ specification, e.g., pars. 20 and 103.

Moreover, the ancillary Nishida, Kubota, and Kubo references fail to remedy the deficiencies of Hong.

Therefore, since the cited Hong reference fails to disclose or even suggest each and every limitation of present independent claim 1, and the ancillary references fail to remedy the deficiencies of Hong, present independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2-8

and 26 are considered to be in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectively requested.

For at least the same reasons as discussed above in reference to present claim 1, present independent claim 9 and amended independent claim 19, including dependent claims 10-14, 17-18, 20-22, and 24-25, respectively, are considered to be in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectively requested.

New Claims

Claims 27-31 are new and are considered to be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as discussed above in reference to present claim 1, and such allowance is respectively requested.

CONCLUSION

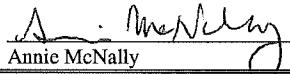
For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested and a timely Notice of Allowance is solicited.

If there are any questions regarding any aspect of the application, please call the undersigned at (949) 752-7040.

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